

Third Record of the Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*) in Illinois.— I am indebted to Mr. W. A. Powers of Wilington, Ill., for information regarding the capture of a specimen of this species, which is rare for this State. The bird was killed by Mr. Powers while snipe-shooting near Wilington, Will Co., Ill., on April 26, 1909. It is mounted and now in his possession. The two previous records for the State are recorded in 'The Auk,' Vol. XIX, 1902, p. 77.— RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

Wilson's Snipe wintering in Pennsylvania.— While out collecting on January 27, 1909, my friend, Mr. Foster White, obtained a fine specimen of the Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) in a small swampy area near State College, Center County, Pennsylvania. The rarity of the species at this season in Pennsylvania is at once apparent, and in Center County its occurrence is astonishing, as the whole valley in which State College lies is some twelve hundred feet above the level of the sea. Previous to the capture of this bird, I had observed specimens lingering in the same swamp as late as December 5, and again on the 12th, of the year 1908.— RICHARD C. HARLOW, *State College, Pa.*

The Lesser Yellow-legs in Center County, Pennsylvania.— The Lesser Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*) is one of the rarest of the spring waders in Pennsylvania, and it gives me pleasure to be able to record the species for the first time from Center County. The first specimen was taken on April 1, 1909, by Mr. Foster White, near State College, Pennsylvania. While collecting in the same vicinity on April 20, 1909, I observed another of the same species and finally collected it. These two captures stand alone as representing the status of the Lesser Yellow-legs in Center County.— RICHARD C. HARLOW, *State College, Pa.*

Early Nesting of the Barn Owl in Delaware.— In a Wilmington, Del., newspaper for April 20, 1909, is a rather sensational report of the capture on April 19 of a strange bird on a marsh near that city, and in the same paper for April 22, A. D. Poole, Esq., President of the Delaware Game Protective Association, identified the bird as a juvenile Barn Owl (*Aluco pratincola*), and in a letter to me Mr. Poole says the bird was apparently about six weeks old. On April 25, I saw this bird. It was confined in a large wire cage, such as are sometimes used for Parrots. The owner told me it had been found on the ground, and was unable to fly. This was evident. The primaries were now fairly well developed but many of the wing feathers were only just protruding from the sheaths; down was on many of the feathers of the back and the entire under parts were covered with down. The tail was but little over half adult length. It twice climbed up the sides of the cage and exercised its wings. The development was not quite as far advanced as Mr. Finley in his 'American Birds' shows as "8 weeks old." It was probably about seven weeks old, and if so, and allowing two weeks for hatching, the egg must have been laid by February 21, which is very much earlier than the usually recorded dates.

In 'Cassinia' for 1904, Mr. Thos. H. Jackson gives May 15, "one egg was already pipped." "Early in May...another...nest of six eggs was found..." Again, "Early in December, 1904, a young Barn Owl was found dead...it was still partly covered with down and could not have been over 8 weeks old, so that it must have been hatched about the first of October. This would seem to confirm some of the accounts we have had of the irregular nesting habits of these birds."

Audubon gives dates: a single egg, November 8, 1832 (St. Augustine, Fla.); at Charleston, S. C., "The eggs...must have been laid...about the 15th of September [1833]." Other dates for nesting I find are: Santa Clara, Cala., April 14, 1891, 4 eggs (Reed); Rio Frio, Texas, May (Bd., Br. and Ridg.). Dr. A. K. Fisher says in 'The Hawks and Owls of the United States,' p. 137, in summarizing the nesting time of this species: "Except in the more northern parts of its range, where it breeds as late as June, it is probable that the majority of eggs are deposited in March." Maj. Bendire states, 'Life Histories of North American Birds,' Pt. 1, p. 327: "...At Washington City, District of Columbia...they begin nesting from the last week in April to about the 10th of May."

As the species is not found breeding on the Atlantic slope much farther north than Wilmington, Del., this young bird must have been from an unusually early nesting pair, or the early dates heretofore have been overlooked.—C. J. PENNOCK, *Kennett Square, Pa.*

Northern Breeding Limit of the Chuck-wills-widow.—In 'The Auk' (XXV, 1908, p. 478) I gave what I believed to be the first record of the breeding of this species north of James River, Virginia. Yesterday, May 23, while walking through an open piece of pine woods near my house about 6.30 P. M., I flushed a female from a set of two eggs, which I found were incubated about five days. This is exactly a year to a day from the date my father took the first set. While two pairs have been around my home since April 4, and I have seen them flit by about dusk, it has only been within the last two weeks that I have been able to flush one in the day time. I think it is safe to say their breeding range extends northward to the high river banks on the north shore.—H. H. BAILEY, *Newport News, Va.*

The Starling near Springfield, Mass.—A Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) was caught by a cat, in Hadley, eighteen miles north of Springfield, January 25, 1909. In February and through the early spring a number of these birds were seen in this vicinity, and during the present month a pair has been found breeding in Agawam, on the west side of the Connecticut River. Apparently the range of the Starling in this country is extending north and inland.

I do not think it is probable that the Starlings that have recently been seen in this vicinity are the survivors or descendants of those introduced here twelve years ago. At least it is not possible that these birds could